

**From:** Derek Martin  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:23am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

The proposed settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft is not a good thing.

My name is Derek Martin. I am an electrical engineering Ph.D. student who will shortly be joining the corporate work force for an American semiconductor company. I use computers regularly (including Microsoft products and competitors, including but not limited to free software). I currently enjoy the environment of (some, though I would like to see more) competition among software vendors/design philosophies/market philosophies, etc.

The proposed settlement does not do enough to ensure that this type of competition can continue. Microsoft just has too much market share and unfortunately continues to unfairly leverage this fact to push out potential competition, by moving standards and computer usage paradigms away from situations that allow competition. Many people such as myself agree that the world is better off with Microsoft products AND Apple products AND Linux AND Solaris AND Internet Explorer AND Netscape AND Office AND Free Office equivalents than it will be if Microsoft gets their way and we have only Windows+Office+Internet Explorer with whatever other so-called "innovations" they want to force onto our computer and charge us lucratively for.

There is competition, now. I can use Linux (for now, until Microsoft "innovates" some new proprietary thingy that I would \*need\* their software for, with competition being pushed out by designed incompatibilities with other Microsoft products). I could buy an Apple system (for now, until the chip makers decide not to produce PowerPC chips anymore because Microsoft has efficiently dominated the market, and decides to exhort computer makers to only sell their products on other platforms). These alternatives will soon disappear, in my opinion, if Microsofts previous actions which were found to violate Antitrust law, are effectively \*encouraged\* by applying weak, outdated, and otherwise ineffective remedies, as the current settlement proposal would do.

Regards,

Derek Martin

